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IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT
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WITH OTHER EDITORS

WHAT IS THE ABILITY-TO-PAY ESTIMATE WORTH?

(Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch)

Superintendent P. Public Instruction G. Tyler Miller's doubts about the estimates by Virginia county and city superintendents of what the localities can pay on a 10-year school building program are emphatically in point.

Mr. Miller noted that these local estimates of local ability to pay range from 100 per cent to zero per cent. He said that he had not "advocated or endorsed" the 21.2 per cent estimate which emerged from the recent report as the total ability to pay. He added that every county and city should do it share. And he thought that most of them could pay 50 per cent and the poorer could pay 30 per cent.

When the State Department of Education asked the superintendents in 100 counties and 25 cities to estimate their 10-year school construction needs, it also asked them to estimate how much their localities could pay. Their estimate of needs was $396,000,000. Their estimate of ability to contribute locally to this figure was $79,000,000. Some omissions required adjustments, but the reported result was 21.2 per cent local contribution—as estimated.

As estimated how? It is impossible to tell from the published figures. For instance, if we have counted correctly, 11 counties have not submitted any estimates of local ability to pay. The space in the tables provided for these estimates are blank. The same thing is true of seven cities, including Norfolk. Do these blank spaces mean that these 19 counties and seven cities can pay nothing at all on construction in the next 10 years? Or do they mean that local superintendents reporting for these localities merely did not attempt to estimate the possibilities of local contributions?

If the later is true and if some of these localities can contribute something for this purpose, then what becomes of the conclusion that local ability to pay is 21.2 per cent of local estimates of needs? Obviously the 21.2 per cent loses much of its meaning.

If the former is true—that is, if 19 counties and seven cities cannot pay anything at all—on what basis was that conclusion reached? These counties so listed are Botetourt, Buchanan, Campbell, Charlotte, Floyd, Fluvanna, Grayson, Halifax, Loudoun, Louisa, Mathews, Nansemond, Norfolk, Pittsylvania, Prince George, Pulaski, Richmond, Washington, and Westmoreland. These six cities are Bristol, Clifton Forge, Hopewell, Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond and Roanoke.

"POLITE LEARNING"

(Winchester Star)

President Dodds of Princeton is worried because fewer college students than formerly are interested in the humanities. (Polite learning, esp. the ancient classics"—Webster). More of them are turning to science.

This, Dr. Dodds thinks, is a real tragedy. So many young people are missing the opportunity for education in the human values which no other disciplines provide." Princeton, he says, will reverse the trend if it can.

A quarter century ago, according to figures cited by Dr. Dodds, 44 per cent of Princeton sophomores were concentrating on the humanities. Today only 24 per cent are. Meanwhile the proportion concentrating on the natural sciences has jumped froom 12 to 21 per cent, on the social sciences from 44 to 55 per cent.

Perhaps the students are merely being realistic. The world does not seem to belong, nowadays, to those reared on the disciplines of polite learning. The natural and social scientists are comparatively young. In general they do not profess to know the answers so well as more ancient writers, who failed to save their own civilizations, claimed to know them. They are groping their way forward to new truths—or to that which will be accepted as truth for a brief period—not yearning backward to old ones.

Certainly the scientists do not, as Dr. Dodds seems to imply, ignore human values. One of these is psychology, and another is sociology. Most of the others seek knowledge capable of contributing to the enrichment of human life.

There is certainly room for doubt that the new values are better, but there is at least one thing to be said for them: They are vigorous and alive.

AH!

(Anon.)

G. B. Shaw says women nowadays don't have the sex appeal they once had. Mr. Shaw is 92 years old.

HARD TO PLEASE

(Richmond News Leader)

Man is hard to please. If he doesn't do evil, he feels chestsd if he isn't quickly rewarded for being so righteous.

THE 2.6 CENT POSTAL CARD

(New York Herald Tribune)

The penny postal card, according to Postmaster General Donaldson, is a remarkable value, For one cent the United States Government furnishes a ready-stamped, neatly printed rectangle of high- quality cardboard, ready for writing, and carries it through the complex system of assembly and delivery, which is generally accepted as a matter of course. The cost of each card, from beginning to end of the process, is 2.6 cents.

Let us have a two-cent postal card, which, besides a mite's contribution to postal solvency, might even drive people into investing an extra cent and revive the declining art of letter writing. But if we must continue government subsidy of the postal card, the Post Office Department should at least be consistent and supply free writing paper with every three-cent stamp.

Truman says "certain Russian groups" would like to reach accord with the United States.

Indonesian plea of Reds is defeated.

GOP liberals seek a revision of party rules.

Welles improves under treatment for exposure.

Uncle Sam Says

Your Uncle Sam wants to tell you about a Christmas gift you shouldn't be without. That's the gift of security, of confidence in your financial future, of that peace of mind that only comes when money's not a problem, but a blessing. You can have that gift because your Government is offering the finest savings plan that ever came within your reach. If you are on a payroll, join the Payroll Savings Plan that puts in your hand a U. S. Savings Bond at regular intervals. If not on a payroll, you can get a savings bond each month through the Bond-a-Month Plan at your bank. When making up presents for the family, give a thought to their future!

U.S. Treasury Department

Phone 30 with Personals.

By DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:15—23:39; Luke 20:20-47; John 8:1-11.
DEVOTIONAL READING: Luke 1:46-55.

Before Sunrise

Lesson for January 2, 1949

TAKE another look at your new calendar, 1949 it says: 1,949 years since the one single event on which turns the history of the world—the birth of Jesus. (As is well known, the first calculators missed the exact date by four or five years; but the main idea is there all the same.) With the coming of the Son of God to this earth, it was as if a twilight world first saw the sun.

Dr. Foremas

• • •

Military Government

IF WE go back in imagination and think what the world was like before there was a bit of the Christian religion in it, we can better understand the story of Jesus and of the nineteen Christian centuries. For the next six months we shall be thinking, week by week, of the life of Jesus Christ. But first let us think of the world in which he lived.

Jesus' homeland of Palestine was run by a military government. Roman soldiers were everywhere, taking the best of everything. Jews could scarcely forget, even for a day, that they were a beaten people, any more than a Japanese or Austrian can forget it these days.

Jesus grew up in the sort of atmosphere which military occupation always tends to produce: uncertainty, fear, hatred and desire for revenge, tense with underground plots, rumors and conspiracies. The Romans found Palestine hardest of all their possessions to rule. When Jesus was a boy there was a terrific upriaing near his home, and the Romans crucified 2,000 people in reprisals.

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Established Church

WE MUST not think there was no religion before Jesus was born. There was too much of it—that is, of the wrong sort. The "established church" of Jesus' land was the Temple at Jerusalem, with its complicated ritual, its countless beasts roasting on the great altar, its white-robed choirs chanting by day and night.

The High Priest himself was appointed by the Roman overlords; chosen for his skill in rabble-soothing, he held office on condition that he could hold the masses in check. However, the Jerusalem temple was a very small part of the actual religious life of the ordinary citizen.

Even the most religious would see the place only a few times a year. Jesus seldom referred to it, and it was finally the leaders of the established church who hounded him to his death.

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The Sects

THEN as now, not all the religion of the people was confined to the official priesthood and "officers of the church." There were other religious groups, unofficial sects, and not all good. There were the Sadducees, aristocratic and wealthy, professing a strictly this-world religion, not believing in any life after death and rejecting most of the Scriptures.

The Pharisees were the unofficial religious leaders of Israel, as the priests were the official leaders. They were the traveling preachers, the Bible teachers, the D. D.'s of that time. Closely associated with these were the Scribes, experts in the study of the laws of Moses.

They should have been good, but what Jesus thought of them can be seen in the blistering words of Matthew 23.

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Watching for the Dawn

IT WAS a discouraging world in which to be born. Under the Roman heel, with government in the hands of foreigners, with religion under the leadership of political bosses, hypocrites, church lawyers and fanatics, it was not a hopeful time.

And yet there were some really Godlike souls. The stories in Luke 1 and 2 bring before us God-fearing people old and young: a priest who had real faith in his heart, old, old people who prayed for nothing else so much as for God's kingdom, and simple shepherds who welcomed the message of God. And above all, Mary the blessed among women.

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Giant Snails Menace Guam as Navy Hunts For Answer to Plague

WASHINGTON. — The United States navy would like to know whatever happened to the bright young scientist it sent to South Africa in search of a snail eater.

If the boy doesn't come back pretty soon, we're going to have to move out of Guam, not to mention Saipan, to make room for the giant African snails which are multiplying faster than the shmoo.

History of the snail plague is this:

A Capt. W. F. Jennings, assistant chief of naval operations on Guam, appeared before a house subcommittee wearing a weary look. He said that when the Japs first moved onto Guam they brought their lunch with them, snails, which the Nips dearly love.

The marines and GIs who took over had a lot of beans and spam and, hence, little appetite for snails. So the snails, left to their own devices, started to multiply.

Captain Jennings told the committee the snails, measuring four to six inches in length and weighing up to a pound and a half, were raising the very devil with vegetation on Guam. There are 11,000 arable acres on the island—good for raising corn, potatoes, peas, melons and sugar, all liked by snails.

The navy yelped for help and the naval research council and the department of agriculture responded. They sent a lone scientists to Africa, from whence came the snails, to find a natural enemy.

The man hasn't sent a report in, or even a "wish you were here" card. Investigators went through a flood of channels and couldn't even learn the man's name, although the navy is sure it sent somebody down there.

'Glamour Girl' Describes Modern Farmer's Wife

CHICAGO. — The American farmer's wife is going to be the glamour girl of 1950, Mrs. Charles Sewell, administrative director of the Associated Women of the Farm Bureau Federation, declared here.

Mrs. Sewell told the Third National Electrification Congress that the next few years will see farm families place themselves on a par, or above the rest of the country, in home conveniences.

It is the tremendous surge of new ideas and equipment to the farm, she said, that will put the farmer's wife beside her city sister in the field of glamour and as the typical American girl. The farmer's wife then, Mrs. Sewell said, will have the time necessary to membership in the glamour division.

Family Life Held Strong Amid Industrial Changes

DETROIT. — The contemporary American family is far from any danger of disintegrating because of change in the national industrial pattern—it is simply changing its own pattern in response to changes it encounters.

This, and other statements of praise for the family unit in the nation were delivered by authorities on family life at the fifth biennial meeting of the Family Service Association of America.

Speakers declared available evidence indicates that the adaptability of the family constitutes one of its principal strengths.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson, sociologist, declared that "in a dynamic society such as we have in America, virtue does not inhere in stability but in adaptability to greatly accelerated social change."

Dr. Johnson said the American family has been undergoing a "profound and, to many students and social workers, a disturbing change." He referred to authorities who cite the increase in divorce, or the number of mothers holding jobs, as evidence the family is breaking down as a social institution.

The speaker declared that this, instead of evidence of disintegration, may be studied as a phase of the social orientation of the family in adjusting to the recasting of the role of the family, the changing status of women in western culture, and greatly accelerated social change."

The educator asserted also that the "tradition of unquestioned male dominance in a family situation is in conflict with the democratic ideal of our society that husbands and wives are equal and that children's personalities should be respected."

Glamour Photographer Says Women's Legs Reveal Age

NEW YORK.—An expert can tell a woman's age by looking at her legs, says Larry Gordon, photographer of glamour girls.

It's not a matter of sizing suit than a new look gown, of course, but if the lady will lift her skirt to her knees, the expert can tell in a flash what the beautician tries to conceal.

"It's the blood lines in back of the knees and around the ankles," Gordon said. "It's easy. An expert can guess a woman's age within a year."

The female leg, from the knee down, is a tattle tale in more ways than one, Gordon said.

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Evergreen

Evergreen, Dec. 28.- Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Evans, of Roanoke visited Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Warriner Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Eagle, from Knoxville, Tenn.; Mrs. Hazel Couch, of Richmond; Robert and Frank Glover, from Crewe; Mrs. Mary Sullivan, of Lynchburg, all visited Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Glover during Christmas.

Mrs. Howard Glover and family spent Christmas day with her father, A. B. Ferguson.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam White and children, of Lynchburg spent Saturday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Staples.

Frank Glover, of Arlington, has returned home after spending some time here with his sister, Mrs. J. C. Staples.

Mrs. G. W. Glover spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Glover and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jennings and children, of Christiansburg spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Sam Jennings, She has returned home with them for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reynolds spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Reynolds of Vera.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Gibson and two boys and Miss Lindy Warriner all of Washington, D. C. spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Warriner.

Mrs. A. A. LeGrand was in Farmville Thursday.

Miss Jean Womack spent Monday with Misses Eulalia and Elnora Glover.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hodges and family were supper guests of Mrs. Carl Womack.

Mr. and Mrs. Thad Massie, of Newport News spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Chocklett.

Evergreen, Dec. 28.- Those visiting Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Farrar over the holidays were Mrs. George Farrar and children, Mr. and Mrs. John Farrar and son, Mr. and Mrs. Hankins Marks, of Lynchburg; Mr. and Mrs. Stroud Burks, of Appomattox, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Runson, of Rocks, and Mrs. J. C. Staples.

Those visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Evans and Doris over the week-end were: Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Phelps and son, Ray; LeRoy Chidester, all of Oakville; Mrs. W. W. Wooldridge, Fred Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hodge, Mrs. Ernest Farrar, M. L. Hudson, all of near Evergreen; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Evans, of Rocky Spoke; Miss Thelma Franklin, Calvin Franklin, Ed Franklin, Elwood Finch, Cawthorn Finch, Gilbert Finch, all of Prospect; Mr. and Mrs. Ryland Phelps, and children; Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Phelps, and Brenda, of Lynchburg; Mr. and Mrs. Everette Phelps and Wayne, of Appomattox, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Paulette.

H. W. Phelps and Miss Pauline Phelps, of Oakville were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Evans and Doris Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Emile Bruce and daughter, of Washington spent the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Hudson.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hodge spent Christmas Day with her father, Harrison Franklin, at Prospect.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Evans, of Roanoke spent Sunday with relatives here.

Mrs. Melvin Grisham, of Lynchburg and Mrs. Lowell Fleshman called to see Mrs. James Evans and Doris Evans awhile Friday evening.

Women now find 2-way help for old problem

What to do for woman's oldest problem, functional monthly pain? Many a girl and woman has found the answer in Cardui's 2-way help. You see, Cardui may make things lots easier for you in either of two ways: (1) started 3 days before "your time" and taken as directed on the label, it should help relieve functional periodic pain; (2) taken throughout the month like a tonic, it should improve your appetite, aid digestion, and thus help build up resistance for the trying days to come. Cardui is scientifically prized and scientifically tested. If you suffer "at those certain times", get Cardui today.

Unknown Britisher Slaps at Eisenhower In 'Crusade' Review

LONDON.—An unidentified London Sunday Times military correspondent has blamed Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower for what he termed needless casualties, including the loss of 70,000 Americans, in the 1944 "battle of the bulge."

This first heavy attack on the popular wartime allied supreme commander also included a charge that General Eisenhower's policy produced disastrous results for the western allied postwar political struggle against Russia.

The Sunday Times, a member of the Kinsley chain of British newspapers and not connected with the London Times, did not identify the author, and Morley Richards, foreign service executive said:

"I am unable to comment on the writer as I don't know who he is, but it is safe to say he is in an authoritative position."

The newspaper in an editorial described Eisenhower's book, "Crusade in Europe," as a "blow to Anglo-American friendship and understanding," and said "the injury must be healed."

The editorial added: "One is forced to the conclusion that Eisenhower considers the war really was won by America, that every American view was right, and every British view wrong."

Volunteer Workers Harvest Stricken Neighbor's Crop

KANSAS CITY, MO.—It was harvest time on the farm of George Leeker, two and one-half miles northwest of Lenexa, Kas., in more than ono sense of the word.

When 53 of Leeker's neighbors worked all day to harvest the farmer's 32 acres of corn, Leeker was reaping a harvest from seeds of affection and kindness for his neighbors he has sown in the past.

The men went to their neighbor's aid because Leeker, who suffered a stroke in June, has been ordered to do no heavy work.

As many of the volunteers pointed out, Leeker, who is a 60-year-old bachelor, has always been one who has gone to the aid of others or who has organized volunteer groups, like the one which visited his own farm, to help some one else get a crop harvested.

Air Force plane rescues men stranded in Greenland.

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—The Times-Virginian.

Uncle Sam Says

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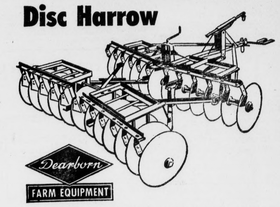

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